

EX 12.1 LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

November 14, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

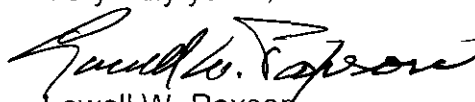
Re: Notification of Ex Parte Communication
CS Docket No. 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the FCC rules, this letter reports that on November 13, 2003, the undersigned met with Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy and Stacy Robinson Fuller, the Commissioner's Mass Media Legal Advisor, to discuss the issue of digital multicast must-carry for television stations. In the meeting, I noted that adoption of rules that require such carriage would result in a plethora of new minority, religious, local news and sports, and other programming and, as a result, would have a positive effect on diversity, localism, and competition in local television markets. I also noted that, with the advent of compression technology, digital multicast must-carry will result in cable systems devoting less bandwidth to digital signals than they have traditionally devoted to analog television signals. The record strongly supports requiring digital multicast must-carry, and the Commission should act promptly to do so.

As required by section 1.1206(b), two copies of this letter are being submitted.

Very truly yours,


Lowell W. Paxson,
Chairman

cc. The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Stacy Robinson Fuller, Esquire

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